

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:04p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Durant made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5 (a) (2) Legal Services Contract, Custodian negotiations. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and it passed 6-0. Mr. Durant made a motion to go out of executive session at 6:45p.m. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and it passed 7-0. Mr. Durant made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer to seal the minutes of the executive session. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Paul Martin; Mrs. Susan Records, and Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived at 6:10p.m.). Also in attendance were Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Attorney Matthew Oliverio.**

## **7:02p.m. Regular Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair. Dr. Gifford announced there was a unanimous vote (7-0) taken during**

**executive session to approve a one-year contract for the law firm of Oliverio and Marcaccio.**

#### **I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

#### **II. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes listed below. Mr. Green asked that the regular minutes for August 14, 2012 reflect his attendance.**

**a. Regular and executive for August 14, 2012**

**b. Regular for August 21, 2012**

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio thanked the administration, faculty, students, and parents for a great start to the 2012-13 school year. Dr. Mercurio also thanked Meadowbrook custodians Bob Coutu and Dave Sheldon for their hard work at Meadowbrook. He also thanked the entire custodial staff, Principal Marcaccio, and all staff members. The posting for the Assistant Principal at Cole will close tomorrow. Interviews will be scheduled for next week. A recently retired administrator will fill in as an interim Special Education Director. The job will be posted for a permanent director. Dr. Mercurio also noted that Mr. Marcaccio and Mr. Seger embraced their new roles as Meadowbrook Principal and interim Assistant Principal of Cole.**

**NEASC requested that EGHS students and principals give a presentation at their fall showcase (similar to the presentation that was given at a previous School Committee meeting last year). Dr. Mercurio met with PTG presidents at NEIT today. They were also given a tour by Erin Flynn, Manager of Administration, Outreach, and Events. The open house schedule is available on the website.**

**Meadowbrook's date was changed from September 6, 2012 to September 19, 2012. A copy of the open house schedule will be forwarded to the School Committee.**

#### **V. School Committee Concerns**

**Mr. Martin noted that previous EGHS interim Principal John Gray recently passed away. Dr. Mercurio attended the services and will also send a letter of sympathy from the district.**

#### **VI. Action Items**

##### **a. Appointments**

**On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the following appointments were unanimously approved 7-0:**

- 1. Science Teacher- EGHS- 1 Year Only-Jillian Boisse**
- 2. Grade 1 Teacher-Frenchtown-1 Year Only-Robyn Warner**
- 3. Paraprofessional-EGHS-Barry Martasian**
- 4. Paraprofessional 1:1-Cole-Donna Fish**
- 5. Entrepreneurship Teacher- .1FTE-1 Year Only-EGHS-Patricia**

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**6. Theater for Children Teacher-.1FTE- 1 Year Only-EGHS-Timothy Kenney**

- 7. ALP Math Teacher-.2FTE-1 Year Only-EGHS-Julie Barrows**

- 8. Acting Teacher-.1FTE-1 Year Only-EGHS-Robert Petrucci**
- 9. Current American Issues Teacher-.1FTE-1 Year Only-EGHS-Andrew Perrin**
- 10. Spanish Teacher-EGHS-1 Year Only-Rosie Sosnowski**
- 11. Asst Soccer Coach Girls, EGHS-Joelle Beyer**
- 12. Head Coach, Co-Ed Cross Country- Cole-Caitlin Coulombe**

**Mr. Sommer asked if any of the .1FTE appointments will increase any of the staff members FTE beyond a 1.0FTE. Appointments #5, 6, 8, and 9 will increase the FTE beyond 1.0. The appointments of #11 and #12 are approved pending the candidates receive state certification.**

**b. Request for position**

**1. Paraprofessional 1:1-Frenchtown**

**A new student moved into the district prompting the hiring of a 1:1 Paraprofessional. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the request 7-0. Dr. Mercurio noted that district enrollment has increased beyond the NESDEC projection of 2,385 students. The district is at approximately 2,422 with almost 800 students enrolled at the high school.**

**c. Resignation**

**On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the following resignations:**

- 1. Swati Shah-Paraprofessional-Frenchtown**
- 2. Christine Rivers-EGHS-Sophomore Class Advisor**

**d. Parental Leave**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the following parental leave:**

**1. Kerianne Tarro-EGHS**

**e. School Committee Meeting Date -November 6, 2012 (Date of General Election)**

**Mr. Martin asked if the November 6, 2012 meeting can be changed since it coincides with the General Election. On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 7-0 to change the November 6, 2012 meeting to November 13, 2012 and the November 20, 2012 meeting to November 27, 2012.**

**f. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2013**

**On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2013. Dr. Mercurio noted that an additional meeting may be needed in August if there are appointments that need approval.**

**g. Mass bid**

**The vendor who was recently awarded the bid could not reach closure with the district in regards to the warranty. Attorney Oliverio reviewed the bid with the vendor and could not reach consensus. Dr. Mercurio recommends awarding the bid to Blackboard Connect. Mr.**

**Sommer asked about consolidating the service with the town. Attorney Oliverio noted that the vendor did not submit a bid and discussed the ramifications of rejecting a bid. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to award the bid to Blackboard Connect pending successful**

negotiation.

## **VII. Meadowbrook Farms Update**

Dr. Mercurio gave the Committee an update on Meadowbrook noting Tower Construction is working on punch list items after hours. Hardware is being adjusted, signage mounted, and millwork installed. The roof was completed this summer, along with the flooring, and the abatement process which was given a final clearance by the industrial hygienist. Bookcases should arrive in about 2-4 weeks and classroom marker boards in about 6 weeks. Dr. Mercurio thanked the entire custodial faculty, staff, parent volunteers, and Mr. Wilmarth for their herculean efforts to get Meadowbrook Farms ready. Mrs. Osborne asked questions regarding the HVAC system and the timeframe to correct the problem. Mr. Green said it will be resolved within two weeks.

## **VIII. Financial Update**

Mrs. Crawford gave the Committee a preliminary financial statement as of June 30, 2012. She discussed the potential surplus in the operating fund with largest surplus in health and dental.

Mr. Sommer asked clarifying questions about the dollar value that should remain in the fund. Dr. Gifford asked Mrs. Crawford to get the official dollar value that is recommended for the fund balance.

## **IX. Discussion Items**

### **a. Fields' Rental**

Mr. Sommer asked Attorney Oliverio to investigate whether the Committee or Town has the authority to charge rental fees for the field in order to establish a contingency fund that can be used for

future maintenance/replacement of the turf. Attorney Oliverio discussed this matter with Mr. Dias (DEM) and Mr. Sequino. He provided a memo to the Committee which explained his findings. It was learned that the construction of the fields was administered under the state and funded, in part, through the federal government. This means the land is considered a park, which does not restrict the use of the fields to East Greenwich residents. The Town has the authority to draft a policy for field usage for outside groups and a rental fee for East Greenwich residents. Attorney Oliverio asked for permission to go to the Town Council with his memo to implement a rental policy for the fields. The Committee discussed the topic of local groups paying and added that RIIL has already paid. Dr. Gifford would also like to look at the district receiving a percentage of gate and concession receipts. Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Crawford, and the Fields' Committee will explore the possibility of initiating a Fields' Rental Policy with the Town.

#### **X. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:55p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**  
**SECRETARY**